

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*By Miranda Mittelstet*

*Sunday, September 13, 2020*

*Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA**

**September 13, 2020**

**WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 am**

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**Worship Leader:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Music:** Worship Team

**Children's story:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

*“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”*

*~ Romans 8:24-25*

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music 10,000 reasons

Call to Worship and Prayer

**LISTENING**

Moment in Mission Video & the Lord's Prayer

Music Lord I Need You

Children's story (video)

Scripture Reading **Romans 8:18-28**

Sermon **“Beyond explanations, beyond groaning”**

**RESPONDING**

Music Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music Today

### **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Mary Voth, Sadie [Willie] Funk, Waldo Schulz, and Anne Kehler and Marge Schellenberg at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Dave Sawatzky**, a member of our Church family, passed away September 6. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life, and pray for his wife Doreen, family and extended family. A funeral and burial were held this past week.
- ~ **This Sunday our "Moment in Mission"** video is about the beginnings of the MCC thrift stores. Most of us already know this story well. But it is a good reminder of the amazing things that have come from a few people having a dream. Watch the video at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-F0j6-quopg>
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:**  
Pray for congregations across Canada as they prepare for International Witness Sunday, October 18, 2020. Pray that God will open our hearts and eyes to see God's family around the world in a closer way.

Access to the livestreaming on Sunday mornings will be available from the Altona Berghthaler Church website [abchurchcommunity.ca]. The live stream will begin at 10:30am.

Our church website [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) now includes a link called **Recordings & Bulletin Library**. This library includes all of our 2020 Worship Service recordings, the bulletin for each week, and the Children's Teaching that began this spring. Please note that this library will replace our weekly posting of the audio recording to Libsyn. Please also note that we plan to discontinue access to Libsyn at the end of September 2020. Please contact the church if you need assistance locating this new way of accessing the recording and bulletin library.

Starting today (September 13) **Children's Bulletins** will be available in the foyer for ages 3 plus and 7 plus. The children's story video will still be posted to the Church website.

### **From the Pastor** – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Today we begin a sermon series called "Hopeful Answers to Hard Questions." Each week Virginia, Josh, or I will preach in response to a question. The questions were determined based upon quandaries we have encountered throughout our pastoral work and from feedback we received from the congregation. We do not claim to provide the definitive answers to these questions and we hope that this series is the beginning of conversations not the end of conversations. What we preach, though, will be rooted in biblical wisdom, pastoral experience, and prayerful reflections. This series is an opportunity to speak concretely to real and crucial situations and dilemmas that followers of Christ encounter. We hope that all are challenged and empowered to continue growing into the fullness of God.

Sept 13: What will Covid mean for the Church?

Sept 20: How do we respond when a loved one chooses a different path?

Sept 27: Does God ever change?

Oct 4: Is Church irrelevant? Do we need it to be Christian?

Oct 11: How can we be grateful when prayers are not answered?

Oct 18: How can we share our faith?

Oct 25: How do we integrate science with our faith? (and what if extraterrestrial life was discovered!?)

### **A note from the Covid Task Force: wearing masks as we prepare to welcome children back to Sunday School.**

Our church is preparing to begin Sunday School before the end of September. In keeping with the precautions of schools and other community places, we are asking children to wear masks when they come to Sunday School. Because we are asking this of children, we are asking this of adults as well. **Beginning this this Sunday, September 13, we are asking everyone who comes to worship, could you please wear a mask** prior to entering the building until seated in a pew. It is okay to take off your mask once seated, but we ask that you wear your mask again when leaving your pew and visiting indoors, until you have exited the building. As we anticipate larger Sunday morning gatherings, increased activity in our building, and the challenge of physically distancing, this is a way to honour each other, create a safer environment, and demonstrate our love for the children of our church community. Individuals who live with conditions making it difficult to wear a mask are not asked to wear one.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Homecoming Picnic Lunch – this Sunday, Sept 13**

You are invited to an outdoor [weather permitting] picnic lunch today following the worship service. Please bring your own picnic lunch (including drinks) for your family, as well as chairs or a blanket to sit on outside. The church will provide dessert. There will also be some games for the children after lunch.

### **We would love to start Sunday school, but need your help.**

Age 3 – 5 – Cheryl Harder

Grade 2 –

Grade 3 & 4 –

Grade 5 & 6 – Sharon Friesen

Grade 7 & 8 – Stephanie Rempel

Grade 9-12 – Byron Loepky

Lorraine Hamm is willing to teach ½ time in grade 2 or grade 3 & 4 class

If you want to be a part of our Sunday school ministry in any way or

have any questions please contact Amanda by phone (324-6719)

or email ([amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca))

Thank-you for prayerfully considering being a part of this ministry.

- **As the weather turns cooler**, we are temporarily suspending Tuesday morning 'Coffee Time'. As staff, we look forward to welcoming you back in the not too distant future.
- **Sept 21 – Koinonia Ladies Group** starts their year...new members are welcome. Interested in joining? Call Erna Doell 324-8133 for details.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 896-1616

### **Xplore courses for +55 moving online.**

Xplore, a 55 plus enrichment program offered by Canadian Mennonite University, offers courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. All without any assignments or examinations! Because of COVID-19, all Xplore courses in 20-21 are moving online via Zoom, thus making all courses available widely across the country. Eight stimulating courses are offered every Wednesday and Thursday morning over a six-week period, beginning September 30. View course, tuition, and registration information here [cmu.ca/explore](http://cmu.ca/explore).

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennochurch.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.ca) 888-6781

- **Oct 24, MC Canada Study Conference.** Join us as we gather virtually for "Table Talk: Does the Church still have Legs?", a study on the nature and identity of the church and the role of worship. President Emeritus of Canadian Mennonite University Gerald Gerbrandt will be a guest speaker. He will present on worship in the Old Testament. Registration: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020)

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca) 896-1616

- **Prairie Mennonite Fellowship** – first service this Sunday. We continue to celebrate with Prairie Mennonite Fellowship, our newest congregation, born from the merger of Crystal City Mennonite and Trinity Mennonite Fellowship (Mather). They will come together for their first official service this Sunday, meeting in the former Crystal City Mennonite building. The theme passage is 1 Peter 2:4-10.

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [Manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:Manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **Oct 22, 9am-4pm** -Join us for a Pastoral Care and Domestic Abuse workshop in Morden. \$40 registration includes lunch. Limited capacity - register by Oct 16. For more info or to register visit [mccmb.ca/Events](http://mccmb.ca/Events).
- **A summer filled with GO! 100 has come to an end.** A big thank you to all the participants and their supporters. To view our final GO! 100 video, please visit [mccmb.ca/GO-100](http://mccmb.ca/GO-100).
- **We Are All Treaty People Celebration takes to the radio waves.** Tune into UFMF's radio station in the afternoon of Sept 27 to hear a variety of speakers, including emcee Michael Redhead Champagne, share about what Being Treaty means to them. Find out more at [mccmb.ca/Events](http://mccmb.ca/Events).

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona** 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1

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Worship Services available online at: [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com)

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990/cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 [joshj@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshj@abchurch.ca)

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)